

join me in spreading the message and taking a responsible role in bringing our children home.

#### SEPTEMBER 26, A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on this day, September 26, 1780, 220 years ago, the treason attempt of American General Benedict Arnold was discovered. General Washington reported to Congress, "Treason of the blackest dye was yesterday discovered. General Arnold, who commanded at West Point, was about to deliver up that important post into the hands of the enemy. Such an event must have given the American cause a deadly wound if not a fatal stab. Happily, the treason has been timely discovered to prevent the fatal misfortune. The providential train of circumstances which led to it affords the most convincing proof that the liberties of America are the object of Divine protection."

As a result, Congress called for a national day of prayer and thanksgiving, declaring in the resolution, "It hath pleased Almighty God, the Father of all mercies, to rescue the person of our Commander-in-Chief and the army from imminent dangers at the moment when treason was ripened for execution. It is therefore recommended to the several States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer."

On this day, 220 years ago, Congress called on the people of the United States to openly thank God for protecting America, a lesson we should still remember today.

#### THE MEDIA SHOULD GIVE US THE FACTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the media, newspapers, radio and TV stations, have a huge impact on our lives. They influence how we think and act.

Protected by the constitutional right to free speech, the media have few restraints on what they can say and do. They enjoy a "public trust" not to abuse their power. But I wonder how objective Washington political writers can be, when 89 percent acknowledged in a survey that they voted for Bill Clinton and AL GORE.

What concerns me is that we all need accurate and objective information if we are to reach informed opinions about national issues.

The media needs to treat their readers, listeners and viewers with respect, respect for their intelligence to make the right decisions for themselves and for our country. News stories should give us the unvarnished facts and then let us draw our own conclusions.

#### AMERICANS WANT A DEBT-FREE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, do you know what? AL GORE is a spender. He wants to spend \$1.4 trillion of our surplus on new government programs, eliminating any hope that Americans will get needed tax relief and stopping our efforts to eliminate our national debt.

Republicans have already successfully eliminated \$350 billion of public debt and have dedicated 90 percent of the next year's surplus solely to debt reduction. Republicans will eliminate another \$240 billion in debt in the next year alone.

The choice is easy: Do you want to spend \$1.4 trillion in new government spending or have a debt-free America?

Mr. GORE needs to rip up his government credit card and join the Republicans in eliminating our national debt. Americans want, need, and deserve a responsible government and a debt-free America.

□ 1015

#### AMERICA NEEDS NATIONAL POLICY ON ENERGY

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week the administration announced that we were releasing fuel from our Strategic Reserve, and it had nothing to do with politics or the upcoming election.

And I thought, April Fools Day only came once a year.

This administration has proven that it has no energy policy, unless that means stealing secrets from Los Alamos, then they are quite inept. The administration goes after Microsoft, a domestic company with great entrepreneurs, and leaves OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum States, untouched.

We need in this country to create a national policy on energy. We need to look for alternative fuel sources and not be so reliant and so dependent on outside influences to take care of our oil. The recent announcement that we would release 30 million barrels of oil, as Tim Russert said on Meet the Press this week, will only last America 36 hours.

Mr. Speaker, we need a policy, not politics. We need help for American families, not quick sound bite solutions. We need new direction and new leadership, not the old standby rhetoric of saving America by using our most precious reserves for a political play rather than for helping American consumers.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). Pursuant to clause 8, rule

XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 332, nays 47, answered "present" 1, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 488]

YEAS—332

Abercrombie	Cunningham	Houghton
Ackerman	Davis (FL)	Hoyer
Aderholt	Davis (IL)	Hunter
Allen	Davis (VA)	Hutchinson
Andrews	Deal	Inslee
Armey	DeGette	Isakson
Baca	Delahunt	Istook
Bachus	DeLauro	Jackson (IL)
Baker	DeLay	Jackson-Lee
Baldacci	DeMint	(TX)
Baldwin	Deutsch	Jenkins
Ballenger	Diaz-Balart	John
Barcia	Dicks	Johnson (CT)
Barr	Dixon	Johnson, E.B.
Barrett (NE)	Doggett	Johnson, Sam
Barrett (WI)	Dooley	Jones (NC)
Bartlett	Doolittle	Kanjorski
Barton	Doyle	Kaptur
Bass	Dreier	Kasich
Becerra	Duncan	Kelly
Bentsen	Dunn	Kennedy
Bereuter	Edwards	Kildee
Berkley	Ehlers	Kind (WI)
Berman	Ehrlich	King (NY)
Berry	Eshoo	Kingston
Biggert	Etheridge	Klecza
Bilirakis	Evans	Knollenberg
Bishop	Everett	Kolbe
Blagojevich	Ewing	Kuykendall
Bliley	Farr	LaFalce
Blumenauer	Fletcher	LaHood
Boehlert	Foley	Lampson
Boehner	Forbes	Lantos
Bonilla	Fowler	Largent
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Larson
Bono	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Boswell	Frost	LaTourette
Boucher	Gallegly	Leach
Boyd	Ganske	Lee
Brady (TX)	Gejdenson	Levin
Brown (FL)	Gekas	Lewis (CA)
Brown (OH)	Gephardt	Lewis (CA)
Bryant	Gilchrest	Lewis (KY)
Burr	Gilman	Linder
Buyer	Gonzalez	Lipinski
Callahan	Goode	Lofgren
Calvert	Goodlatte	Lowe
Camp	Goodling	Lucas (KY)
Canady	Gordon	Lucas (OK)
Cannon	Goss	Luther
Capps	Graham	Maloney (CT)
Cardin	Granger	Maloney (NY)
Carson	Green (TX)	Manzullo
Castle	Green (WI)	Martinez
Chabot	Greenwood	Mascara
Chambliss	Hall (TX)	Matsui
Clayton	Hansen	McCarthy (MO)
Clement	Hastings (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Clyburn	Hayes	McGovern
Coble	Hayworth	McHugh
Combest	Herger	McInnis
Conyers	Hill (IN)	McIntyre
Cook	Hinojosa	McKeon
Cooksey	Hobson	McKinney
Cox	Hoefel	Meehan
Coyne	Hoekstra	Meek (FL)
Cramer	Holden	Meeks (NY)
Cubin	Hoolley	Menendez
Cummings	Hostettler	Metcalf